

We Honor Veterans Newsletter



April 2024 Special Edition

2024 Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Celebration



gilchrist

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans



Gilchrist's annual Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Celebration is a day to honor and thank the men and women in our community who served during the Vietnam War. This Welcome Home celebration honors the veterans in our care as well as all of the veterans and their loved ones in our community. This celebration is one of the many ways Gilchrist recognizes the unique needs of veterans and thanks them for their sacrifice and service to our state and our country.

This year the event was held on April 7, 2024. There were about 600 participants. Here are a few comments from those attending:

My wife and I both greatly enjoyed the event, and even though it brought back memories (some good and some not-so-good) for me, it was wonderful to see all the vets and their families.

Impact for Vietnam Veterans cannot be measured on a scale it is over the top. I cannot thank you enough. As 54-year spouse of a Vietnam Veteran, I had to live with this first hand. PTSD was not a word used in the 70s, we just developed our own coping mechanism and survived. I thank God every day for my husband's strength to overcome and move forward.

Extremely moving experience. I was impressed with the high level of respect shown toward the veterans and guests, their history, the military, and the nation. Hearing veterans' stories, and understanding their reactions to their experiences, helps me serve them better as a volunteer.

Below are just a few photos taken during this very successful event. To see more pictures, go to:

[Welcome Home Celebration for Vietnam Veterans | Gilchrist \(gilchristcares.org\)](https://gilchristcares.org)

Plans are underway for the 2025 celebration. Mark your calendar for Sunday, March 30, 2025. Hope to see you there.



Catherine Hamel, President of Gilchrist (center) with keynote speakers Medal of Honor recipient Sammy L. Davis, USA (Ret) and his wife Dixie Davis



Vietnam Veterans MDVA Senior Advisor Robert Finn and former Maryland State Senator John Astle



Vietnam and Army veterans and Gilchrist Veteran Task Force members Tim Price and Bill Hill presenting a harmonica set to Medal of Honor recipient Sammy L. Davis, USA (Ret)



Gilchrist Director of Counseling and Support Diane Sancilio and Vietnam Veteran Colonel John C. Astle, USMC (Ret.)



Masters of Ceremonies Lieutenant Colonel George G. Forrest, USA (Ret.) (left) and Colonel John C. Astle, USMC (Ret.) (right) with Lieutenant General (Ret.) R. Scott Dingle – The 45th U.S. Army Surgeon General



Members of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam visiting with Vietnam Veterans



Marine Corps and Vietnam Veteran Dick Johnson and Donut Dollie Linda Sullivan Schulte



Enjoying the Welcome Home event



Enjoying the celebration



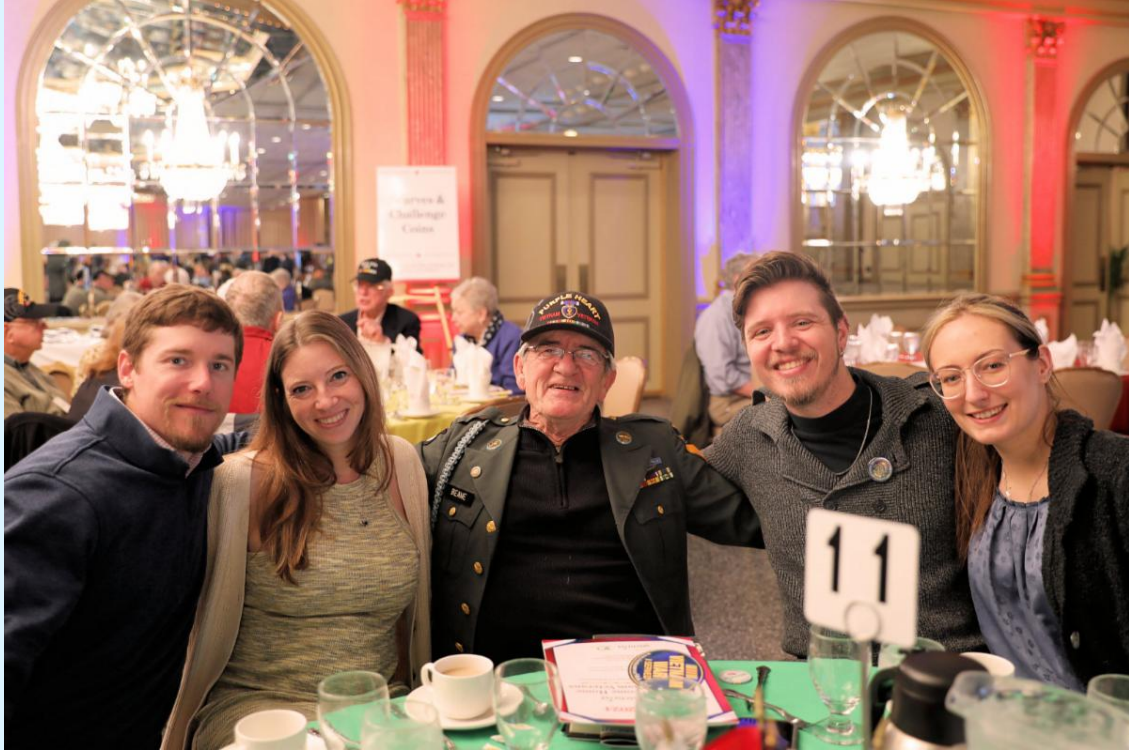
Still looking sharp 50 years later



Vietnam Veteran Shelby Rogers with
Command Sergeant Major Andre L.
Welch, USA



Enjoying the Welcome Home event



Vietnam Veteran and Purple Heart recipient Edwin Beane with family



Vietnam Veteran Mike Lachance presenting a handmade quilt to the oldest veteran attending the Welcome Home event – Al Bucci, US Army WWII Battle of the Bulge with the 99th Infantry Division at 101 years young



Gary Sinise Foundation Ambassador John "Woody" Woodall speaking to the attendees



Veterans Saluting as their military song is played



Wayne Miller, Marine Corps and Vietnam Veteran, closing the annual celebration by singing *God Bless the USA*

Uniform Smiles

A Drill Sergeant had just chewed out one of his cadets, and as he was walking away, he turned to the cadet and said: "I guess when I die, you'll come and dance on my grave."

The cadet replied: "Not me, Sarge...no sir!

"I promised myself that when I got out of the Army I'd never stand in another line."

Please Share

If you enjoyed reading this edition, please forward a copy to other veterans that you know so that they can also enjoy the newsletter. If you are reading a shared copy and would like to receive your own copy of future editions, please send an email with your request to kmcdonnell@gilchristcares.org.

Looking For a Few Good Volunteers

Would you like to be a Gilchrist volunteer? We are always looking for volunteers – especially those who have military experience. Our military veteran volunteers are involved in Salute to Service Tributes for veterans under hospice care, visiting public schools to talk about military service, meeting with veterans to talk about their military service, supporting our annual Welcome Home event for Vietnam Veterans, and many other activities.

If you would like to learn how to become a volunteer, contact Gilchrist at kmcdonnell@gilchristcares.org.

Gilchrist Cares

You may know Gilchrist best for the care we provide people near the end of life. But we offer so much more than hospice. At Gilchrist, we are deeply committed to supporting our veterans through various initiatives and programs. From our specialized We Honor Veterans program to tailored services and resources, we honor the service and sacrifice of our veterans. Our dedicated team ensures veterans receive the recognition, care, and support they deserve, providing specialized care tailored to their unique needs.

Please visit the Gilchrist website to learn more.

[Gilchrist providing care at every stage of serious illness \(gilchristcares.org\)](http://gilchristcares.org)

We Want Your Input

If you have suggestions for content you would like to see in future issues of the Gilchrist We Honor Veterans Newsletter, please contact us at kmcdonnell@gilchristcares.org.



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